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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

8

Application Number

09/637,388

Filing Date

August 11, 2000

First Named Inventor

James B. Riley

Art Unit

2178

Examiner Name

Gregory Vaughn

Attorney Docket Number

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)☐

Fee Transmittal Form

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Fee Attached

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Amendment/Reply

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After Final

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Affidavits/declaration(s)

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Extension of Time Request

☐

Express Abandonment Request

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Information Disclosure Statement

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Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)

☐Reply to Missing Parts/
Incomplete Application☐Reply to Missing Parts
under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53☐

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Power of Attorney, Revocation

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After Allowance Communication to TC

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of Appeals and Interferences☐Appeal Communication to TC
(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)☐

Proprietary Information

☐

Status Letter

☒Other Enclosure(s) (please identify
below):

Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Brief

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name

Learn.com, Inc.

Signature

Printed name

James B. Riley, President & CEO

Date

April 16, 2007

Reg. No.

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P.E. McQueeney

Date

April 16, 2007

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences



In re Application of: Riley, James B.
Application Number: 09/637,388
Filing Date: August 11, 2000
Title: Electronic Note Taking Systems and Methods
Group: 2178
Examiner: Gregory Vaughn

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT BRIEF

Appellant hereby submits its response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Brief dated March 16, 2007. The one-month deadline to file the response is April 16, 2007. Pursuant to MPEP § 1205.03, submitted herewith is a paper providing a summary of the claimed subject matter as required by 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v).

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IV. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Generally, the present invention is directed to a method for facilitating electronic note-taking during an online learning course. Appellant's note-taking method and program provides a mechanism that allows a user to easily interact and take notes from any form of information contained in the online course, but also allows a user to save the notes for later review, even after the course is completed.

The claims on appeal are set forth in the Claims Appendix at pages 17-19. The claims on appeal do not contain any means plus function and/or step plus function language. Independent claim 70 is a process claim. Independent claims 74 and 78 are machine claims.

Although online courses have been available for many years, students have been limited in their ability to take notes. Appellant provides a method that allows students and other users to link notes to specific sections of a course so that when studying the notes, course information may also be further reviewed, if needed. Appellant's method additionally permits a user's access to the notes after completion of the course.

The first step of the electronic note-taking method of claim 70 of the present invention requires initial access to one or more documents in an interactive learning course. As detailed in the original specification at page 1, lines 8-11, the present invention "may be used in conjunction with computer-based interactive learning programs." The online availability of learning programs, which are interchangeably referred to as educational programs in the specification, is discussed at page 2, line 26

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through page 4, line 7. An exemplary listing of the type of documents that may be annotated by the method of the claimed invention are detailed at page 7, lines 18-28, and include spreadsheets, word processing programs, and web pages, all of which may be text-based, graphical or video. FIGs 1-4 and 6 provide screen shots of one embodiment of an online learning program. In Figure 1, the screen shot provides some exemplary learning categories (10) that may be available. The Figure 2 screen shot provides a depiction of some exemplary educational programs or courses (12) available in one of the learning categories (10) listed in Figure 1. The screenshots shown in Figures 3, 4 and 6 are examples provided from one of the educational programs or courses (12) shown in Figure 2. A portion of one “document” is provided in these screen shots, with additional “documents” (not numbered) available in this particular educational program or course (12) listed on the left hand margin of the screen.

The second step of the method of independent claim 70 of the present invention requires display of an annotation field that is associated with the document described above. Page 4, lines 8-16 of the specification provides a description how one issue was solved by the present invention, namely, that the online learning programs available at the time of the invention did not include a note taking feature. Page 4, line 32 through page 5, line 2 describes what is missing from the prior art, namely, allowing a “user to annotate documents with personalized course notes that refer back to a particular portion of the document.” Page 5, lines 8-17 summarizes one of the purposes of the invention, namely, to provide an annotation tool that allows the user to annotate documents with

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personalized course notes that refer back to a particular portion of the program and to annotate electronic documents of any kind, whether or not related to courses, with annotations that are stored and searchable by other parties. Two embodiments of the annotation tool are described at page 7, line 29 through page 8, line 9. An additional embodiment of the annotation field is provided in FIGs 3 and 4 and entitled Your Notes (14).

In the next step of the method claim, a user enters notes into the annotation field. In the Summary of the Invention section of the specification, the user may enter notes by copying a selected portion of the document or by entering personalized notes in the annotation field. Page 5, lines 31-33. Further detail is provided at page 8, lines 10-28 and page 10, lines 12-17. Item 16 in Figure 4 provides an exemplary view of notes entered into the annotation field (14).

The entered notes are then stored in such a manner that the notes are associated with the document. Storage of the notes is discussed at page 8, line 29 through page 9, line 3; page 11, lines 15-22; page 12, lines 25-33; and page 13, lines 1-2.

Both the notes and the document are available to the user for a specified period of time. The specification describes at page 9, lines 18-25 some mechanisms that allow a user to review the document from the notes, for example, via a hyperlink or other reference. One such reference may be a listing of the chapter and page number of the document at which the user was located when the notes were entered. See page 10, lines 20-28.

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The last step of the method of independent claim 70 of the present invention allows a user to access only the notes after completion of the specified time period.

Access to the notes is discussed at page 9, lines 18-25 and page 13, lines 12-22.

Dependent claim 71 permits a student to copy and paste and/or drag and drop a portion of the online learning course to the note pad to save it. See page 10, lines 12-17.

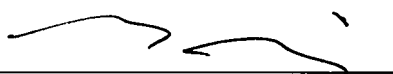
Dependent claim 73 prohibits access to the course after its completion. See page 12, line 31 through page 13, line 2.

Machine claims 74, 75 and 77 are directed to a computer readable storage medium having stored therein a program that performs the steps of process claims 70, 71 and 73. Machine claims 78, 79 and 81 are directed to a server that hosts an interactive learning system having stored thereon a computer readable storage medium that parallels machine claims 74, 75 and 77.

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The claimed invention is now mapped to independent claims 70, 74 and 78 by reference to the specification by page and line number and to the drawings. This amendment places the appeal brief in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v). Appellant respectfully requests that the Board reverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 70, 71, 73-75, 77-79 and 81 and move the present application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Patricia E. McQueeney